



THE COLONNADE

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Number crunch:
14

The number of consecutive division titles won by the Atlanta Braves

Weekend Weather

Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
		
88 65 0%	90 66 20%	91 67 20%

Source: <http://weather.com>

Service commemorates Sept. 11



Photos by Will Godfrey

About 50 students gathered on Front Campus on Monday, Sept. 11, in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist attacks of 2001. The candlelight event was organized by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and featured song, scripture, and prayer.

Students recount impact of Sept. 11

I was in eighth grade, and I didn't really know until I got home around 5, but I knew something was wrong. Parents were checking their kids out... I thought it might be something in the community.

Kayla Pohl, freshman, nursing major

...I didn't understand it at first. But when I got home and I comprehended that people had died on those planes. I was scared... This meant anything could go wrong.

Cory Oweson, freshman, English major

I was a freshman... The first plane hit while I was in an 8 a.m. class. I walked back to my dorm, and when I got there some folks said a plane had hit the World Trade Center. I thought "(the pilot) must be an idiot", I was thinking a little plane, like a Cessna... I got to my room, and turned on my TV when the second tower fell... Everyone was call-

ing, "have you heard?" Everyone was freaking out... I didn't think anything like that would happen to America. Towers had never collapsed like that, covering blocks and blocks with layers of ash.

Jay Johnson, grad student, athletic trainer

I was in the library of my middle school... when the gifted teacher ran in and turned on the TV... we watched TV in the library. I didn't understand at first, and then I got really scared... I just wanted to be with my family.

Kaytie Bird, freshman, health sciences major

They had it on TV, and I thought we were watching a movie at first. Then I realized, this is real...

Holly Steele, senior, physical ed major

I was a senior in high school, I was in mass media class... Somebody said to turn on the TV, and we saw one of the buildings burning... At first we

thought it was a mistake, and some pilot accidentally flew into the building... I saw the second plane hit and I was shocked. I froze... It wasn't a mistake, it was an attack. I felt fear, sorrow, just helplessness....

Josh Chapman, senior, history major

I was standing behind the TV, cause I didn't want to see.... I was crying... Everyone was sad. No one knew what was going on.

Linda Pirkil, sophomore, early childhood education major

My teacher came in late, and said the World Trade Center and the Pentagon had been hit. (My teacher) explained it to us, and we still didn't get it. ...It didn't sink in until I got home, and watched people die (on TV). I was really scared, but then I got really, really mad. I felt violated.

Lauren Cruz, junior, nursing major

Requirements to walk may change

BY A. J. Foss

Stricter guidelines for participation in commencement activities could be enforced for GCSU students in the future.

The Academic Governance Committee held a meeting on Friday and discussed possible changes in determining when students get to graduate and receive their diplomas.

According to a proposal sent to the AGC, students must complete all degree requirements before commencement or the students will not be allowed to walk.

The current policy states that students can walk in commencement even if they have not completed their requirements as long as those requirements are fulfilled during either the following Maymester or

during the summer.

"It is still speculative at this point on how exactly we (the AGC) are going to change the policy," said Mike Gleason, chair of the Academic Governance Committee.

A possible change is to add an ad hoc committee that would discuss such matters that are related with commencement because there currently is no policy that follows up on students who fail to complete the requirements during the subsequent summer term. The ad hoc committee would be a subcommittee to the AGC.

"Any proposal they (the ad hoc committee) might develop would still come through us," said Gleason.

Please see
AD HOC on pg. 2



Photo by Will Godfrey

The allure of alcohol is tempting, especially to new freshmen, many of whom are away from the watchful eyes of their parents for the first time.

Alcohol Edu course causing many freshmen to re-think drinking

BY Grant Grisamore

Before moving on campus this fall, incoming freshmen at GCSU had already gotten a small taste of college.

They had completed a college course called AlcoholEdu.

Unlike any other class they will take this semester,

AlcoholEdu will not affect their grade-point average. They did not have to sit inside a classroom. AlcoholEdu is an online course to educate incoming freshmen about the dangers of alcohol.

AlcoholEdu is a science-based, data-driven course that adjusts its content based on the student's his-

tory with alcohol. The online program (made mandatory by GCSU last summer for the 2006 incoming freshmen class) takes about three hours to complete. It is used at more than 500 colleges in the United States.

Please see
ALCOHOLEDU on pg. 3

GCSU is a 'safe campus,' but students should use caution

BY **Jamie Flemming**

The period between Labor Day and Thanksgiving, known as the Red Zone, is when the highest rates of sexual assaults take place on college campuses, according to the Utah Statesman Online, the Red Zone.

Sexual assault includes completed or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between the victim and offender. They may or may not involve force and include grabbing or fondling. Sexual assault also includes verbal threats.

Jennifer Graham-Stephens, the interim coordinator of GCSU Women's Resource Center said, "Sexual assault is any unwanted physical contact including hugs, kisses, touches in a sexual manner. It includes rape and attempted rape."

According to the Jane Kopas Women's Center, it is a common misconception that strangers commit most sexual assaults. However, a person is more likely to be sexually assaulted by someone they know – a friend, boyfriend, neighbor or date – than by a lurking stranger.

"They're (sexual assaults) mostly committed by people you know. Acquaintance rape is the most prevalent," said Graham-Stephens.

The Counseling Services at Elizabethtown College said first year female students are especially at risk because they are not familiar with their campus, they want to test their new level of independence without parental limitations and they may engage in behaviors such as partying and excessive drinking as a way to be socially accepted and/or deal with feelings of insecurity and loneliness.

Since GCSU is a "safe campus," students sometimes don't take cautionary measures as they should, said Graham-Stephens.

"We have a very safe campus. Girls assume they're safe and that nothing is going to happen. (But there is) always a possibility," she said.

Freshman Ariana Colon said she does take caution when she goes out.

"I usually stick with groups of two or three because my mom always tells me assaults usually occur when you are by yourself," she said.

If a student is sexually assaulted, they

have many resources available.

A student should call Public Safety immediately if a sexual assault occurs. They can also come by the Women's Resource Center and discuss their options there. Also, they can visit Counseling Services or press charges through the City of Milledgeville or through the university.

Students can and should be cautious when they are going out with friends.

"Girls need to practice being safe," Graham-Stephens said. "Know where you are, who you are with, watch your drinks and go with friends."

Males can also help their female friends when going out, Graham-Stephens said. They can watch drinks, watch what is going on, and if something does happen, intervene.

"Stay with a buddy at night, know where the safety towers are, stay in well-lit areas and don't get off alone," she advises.

Student safety brown bag lunch

A few students gathered in the Women's Resource Center for a Brown Bag Lunch September 13 to learn how to stay safe on campus.

Mary Jean Phillips from Counseling Services and Detective Robert Butler from Public Safety came in to inform students of different ways to stay safe.

One method Butler suggested was pepper spray. He recommends using Fox labs pepper spray, which you can get from defense devices.com and other places online.

A student can also protect him or herself through physical means. GCSU offers courses in self-defense, Brazilian jujitsu (sp?), and mixed martial arts.

"The most important thing is getting in the mindset of what if this happens," Butler said.

Phillips told students about the counseling services GCSU provides if anything happens. She also discussed the options that a person has concerning receiving medical attention, pressing charges, or receiving counseling.

Phillips said that students should not be afraid to use whatever means they have to for defense.

"We do what we can to protect ourselves, but if someone commits a crime, it is their responsibility."



New Fraternity, Delta Sigma Phi, values culture, harmony

BY **Ana Maria Lugo**

Delta Sigma Phi is the newest addition to the National Interfraternity Council (NIC) that already has four notable fraternities here in GCSU which includes Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Alpha, Kappa Sigma and Pi Kappa Phi, respectively.

GCSU is the last public school in Georgia to have a Delta Sigma Phi chapter.

They are also in the process of becoming a Recognized Student Organization (RSO) just in time for Spring Rush 2006.

Delta Sigma Phi is a national fraternity established in 1889 at the former City College of New York. They live by the philosophy "Better Men. Better Lives." They also promote brotherhoods that live by the core values of: culture, harmony and friendship.

John Beese, a business major, and Pendar Khosravi, a mass communication major, are both sophomores and among the founders of GCSU's Delta Sigma Phi chapter.

"We started originally as a bunch of guys just hanging out," Khosravi said. "We felt that none of the fraternities really represented what we were all about, so we decided to start a new one."

Beese and Khosravi, along with some friends, researched fraternities in hopes of establishing one here at GCSU. They looked into many fraternities before deciding that Delta Sigma Phi was the best fit for their group.

"Last school year was all about research. We started around January just looking into different national fraternities that might be interested in a chapter here," Beese said. "Some of us had family members that were members of fraternities so we had a

basic idea, but some of us didn't know how to start one or what it was going to be like. To find a fraternity that suits our group and would willingly come down here took time."

Delta Sigma Phi was the most interested in what these 23 original members represented. A new chapter was then established after support and approval from the national council.

Their national philanthropy is The March of Dimes. This chapter however, is hoping that they could do something within the Milledgeville area.

Delta Sigma Phi members reassures that the establishment of this chapter was in no way founded because of rivalry or dislike of other fraternities.

"It's absolutely nothing against other fraternities," Khosravi said. "It's just that we felt that our group was just different from what they have."

"We've introduced ourselves to every fraternity," Beese added. "They have been very supportive in our efforts to start Delta Sig, so we feel good about being a member of the fraternity council here at GCSU."

They hope to have some rushees this

semester although it will be very selective. Most of the members are sophomores and were close friends even before the new fraternity arrived on campus. And like all Greeks on campus, they will have guidelines and requirements for participation based on academic success, community service hours, and conduct

among other things.

"With Spring Rush we have more time getting to know people and getting the word out," Khosravi said. "It shouldn't be a problem."



Ad Hoc:

Continued from Page 1...

The ad hoc committee could also deal with students who turn in their applications to participate commencement after the deadline passes, which for the 2007 commencement was Sept. 1. Students are often given leeway by the chairs of their respective departments in turning their applications on time and there currently is no penalty for those students who turn in their applications after the deadline.

The AGC and the ad hoc

committee could decide to enforce the deadline for applications more strictly and have students penalized for turning their applications late.

Jonathon Barton, SGA member of the Academic Governance Committee, hopes that if the ad hoc committee decides to penalize, those students would still be able to participate.

"I'm venially against telling students they cannot walk with their class," Barton said.

Paul Thomas, vice president for institutional research and enrollment management and possible

chair of this ad hoc committee, hopes that perhaps enforcing the deadline stricter will lead to a smoother application process.

"(Our goal) is to look at what the current policy is and to determine what measures are needed in order to ensure that the students provide the information and that we (the registrar) can process the information correctly in a timely manner", Jones said.

If this proposal is adopted, then the changes would go effect in time for the 2008 commencement.

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Second registrar leaves GCSU in less than a year

BY **Jerry Calbos**

Dr. Robert Carver, registrar for GCSU, left his post on Friday, Sept. 8, after spending only six months at GCSU. Dr. Carver was unavailable for comment on his leaving, as he did not reply to e-mails or return phone calls.

“He wasn’t here long,” said Dr. Paul Jones, vice president for institutional research and enrollment management. “He has a tremendous technology background, that’s partly why we hired him. I believe he had the skill-set that helped tremendously.”

In the short time Carver was at GCSU, he began the implementation of many new programs.

“[Dr. Carver] helped get us started on a number of projects,” Jones said.

Some of the projects included a degree evaluation program on a newer version of Banner (the world-famous scheduling software). He also helped

initiate the implementation of scheduling software that would assist the registrar’s office in automating class scheduling.

Carver also helped initiate confidentiality of student records at GCSU. Confidentiality is a big issue among U.S. colleges; The Federal Government has fined a number of state universities and colleges due to leaks of students’ social security and credit card numbers.

The system-wide (University System of Georgia) initiative will be collecting information on all 5,800 plus students at GCSU, and converting their accounts to ID numbers, which are much safer than Social Security numbers and birth dates.

Carver is also noted for bringing customer service to a new level in the Registrar’s office.

“He was very personable to students, staff and faculty,” Jones said.

Jones said that Carver built relationships with var-

ious departments and within his own department. He said that everyone has been pleased that the registrar staff assist all students from registration to transcripts.

Carver will be training universities on behalf of SCT Sunguard Systems, creator of Banner Web. This means that Carver will be traveling through out the world.

“We are very excited for him,” Jones said.

The university will now have an interim registrar, probably a current vice president until they can find another one whose skills match those of Dr. Carver’s.

“We still move forward,” stated Dr. Jones. “We’ll go find another highly qualified registrar.”

According to Jones, there will be a national search within the next 60 days, though a new registrar might not be found until the first of 2007.

GCSU alumni becomes new Assistant Director of SAC

BY **Jessica Murphey**

GCSU’s Student Activities Center has welcomed a new face to its staff after Ron Lunk, former assistant director of student activities, made the decision to take a job at Augusta State University in early June.

Ron Lunk was the assistant director of Student Activities for three years and had a difficult time deciding whether or not to leave GCSU.

“It was a very difficult decision, mainly because of the friends I had made and the relationships I made with the students. Honestly, the students at GCSU are truly amazing,” said Lunk.

Lunk, after accepting the position of associate director of Student Activities at ASU, contacted SAC and told the department that he had someone in mind that could fill in for him until they found someone permanent.

Twenty-three-year-old Reese Fitzpatrick, a GCSU alum, thought she was only going to be the assistant director for the summer and was surprised when she was offered the job permanently.

On Aug. 18, Fitzpatrick took the position full time. She was excited about this great opportunity but was also hesitant at first.

“It’s not an easy job and before I applied to keep it, I really hesitated. I was mostly concerned about the crazy hours and also a little bit tempted to take a

more traditional job that wasn’t so complicated and that you don’t have to think about when you go home,” said Fitzpatrick. “In the end though, I’d much rather spend longer days at a job I love than shorter days at a job I don’t care about.”

GCSU students have welcomed Fitzpatrick with open arms since returning to campus this fall and finding out that Lunk was no longer a staff member at SAC.

Natalee Mayo, a student worker at SAC, has enjoyed working with Fitzpatrick over the past month and is excited about getting to know her better.

“Reese has done an amazing job of picking up where Ron left off,” Mayo said. “(Reese) came in and really stepped up to the plate and I’m really proud of her and what she has accomplished so far.”

Jessica O’Neill, a member of Zeta Tau Alpha at GCSU, was pleased to find out that Fitzpatrick got the job.

“I got to know Reese on a more personal level this summer from being a part of College Pan-Hellenic Council and I really felt as if she had the dedication and the ability to be assistant director full time,” said O’Neill. “I was so happy for her when she told us that she took the job.”

Fitzpatrick is not the only new face at SAC. The Student Activities Center has a new intramural coordinator, Joel Sanderson, and a new graduate assis-



Lunk



Fitzpatrick

tant who coordinates the Venture Out program.

“It is comforting to know that I am not the only new kid on the block,” said Fitzpatrick. “It is nice to have people around me who are in the same position as me.”

Lunk is thrilled that Fitzpatrick is the new assistant director and will continue to be there to support her and give her advice whenever needed.

“I think Reese will do a terrific job,” says Lunk. “I watched her grow as a student leader and graduate and as I transitioned with her, I knew she would be fine.”

AlcoholEdu:

Continued from Page 1...

When students log on to AlcoholEdu for the first time, the program asks questions about their history with alcohol. These answers are kept confidential. The program then modifies the content of the lesson based on the student’s background.

“It is designed so if someone chooses to drink then it can help them make good choices,” said Dr. Bruce Harshbarger, vice president of student affairs and dean of students. “If someone does not drink then it will help them know how to react when they are around people who do.”

Harshbarger said the number of students who come to college with a background that involves alcohol is “very significant.” He said this number often increases during their first semester.

With underage drinking a growing problem on some college campuses, many schools are taking additional steps to educate students about the risks involved.

GCSU officials are not the only ones who are addressing the underage drinking problem. Before classes began this fall, city officials raised fines to more than \$900 for anyone arrested for underage drinking. In addition to a mandatory court appearance, offenders must enroll in a six-week educational program on integrity and decision-making. They also must serve a six-month probation period under the new law.

Harshbarger said underage drinking is not only a problem on college campuses but also in society.

“I hope (AlcoholEdu) can empower most people to make mature decisions,” said Harshbarger. “Even if it doesn’t, it would at least send a message that we are very concerned about alcohol-related issues, so that message in itself is of some value.”

Some incoming students were skeptical about taking the course.

“It didn’t really impact my actions,” said Logan Clark, a freshman. “I thought a couple of things were interesting, but most of it was things I already knew.”

Harshbarger said all but about a dozen freshmen had completed the AlcoholEdu

course by the time they moved in. He said several had technology problems and could not access it, but had completed the course since then.

According to a pre-survey conducted by Outside The Classroom Inc., the company that developed AlcoholEdu, 74 percent of the students indicated they were glad they took the course.

“People need to know the warning signs of alcohol poisoning and how to tell when someone needs to stop drinking,” said Katherine Snow, a freshman.

Clark said the program was beneficial.

“It might not change what people do, but at least students will be educated in their decision-making and about the risks involved with drinking,” he said.

Although some freshmen said they already knew the majority of the information covered in the program, some felt there is a need to cover the issue before going to college. Sean Romocki, a sophomore, said it would have been beneficial to take the course when he was a freshman last year.

“I don’t think it would have changed my actions, but it definitely could have helped for some of my friends,” he said.

Romocki said the “freedom of college makes people get a little crazy,” and he is glad first-year students were required to take such a course.

According to Gina Peavy, executive assistant to the vice president of student affairs, there were 18 arrests involving freshmen underage drinking this August compared to 31 freshmen arrested in August 2005.

With the numbers already showing a decrease since last fall, school officials hope the program will prove successful.

In January, GCSU will receive pre-survey and post-survey results from AlcoholEdu.

“We do not have any data from the year before to compare it to, so it would be hard to accurately tell if it has been successful in terms of modifying student behavior,” said Harshbarger. “It will give us some baseline data, though. We will have sent a message to students. I think that part of it is extremely valuable.”

Series of Podcasts offers GCSU interviews, Public Safety Report

SPECIAL TO
THE COLONNADE

The Colonnade is informing GCSU students about local and university news through the Paws to Listen Podcast series, which airs on Wednesdays and Fridays starting Friday, Sept. 15.

The Paws to Listen interview series, as well as the Public Safety Report, are available for download on the Colonnade’s Web site, www.gcsunade.com. Paws to Listen features interviews with representatives from GCSU’s Student Government Association, the university administration and the Milledgeville government. The Public Safety Report, much like

the weekly reports in The Colonnade, highlights crime and public safety activity on campus. Students who read this column and are interested in real, sometimes even comical, crime reports may be interested in subscribing to this podcast.

Alexis Dannelly is a senior who will be an interviewer for the series. “I think students should listen to the Podcast series because it is a convenient way for students to find out what’s happening on campus and in the surrounding community,” she says.

A total of 16 Podcasts will air by Wednesday, Nov. 8. Podcasts provide a convenient source of information and are available for free. The iPod’s ability

to play Podcasts makes the news very portable, but no iPod is necessary when downloading podcasts.

“The interview series will relate to the students at GCSU because it is for the students, by the students,” says Dannelly. “The series will give the campus another way to broadcast the news.”

The first Podcast airing Friday, Sept. 15 will feature an interview with Tyler Smith, editor in chief of the Colonnade, who will provide more details about the production of Podcasts.

The Colonnade is the official student newspaper of GCSU. Georgia College & State University is Georgia’s official liberal arts university.

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a podcast interview series

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OPINION

THE COLONNADE'S FORUM FOR PUBLIC DEBATE

OUR VOICE

Changes in graduation requirements may cause students to miss out on an important part of college experience

In the Back to School issue of The Colonnade, we promised to report to students not only what they wanted to hear, but also what they needed to know.

This week, we are holding true to that promise.

In a meeting that seemed so insignificant that we almost didn't cover it, the Academic Governance Committee recently discussed the possibility changing our only graduation ceremony.

Under the proposed alterations students who have not completed their degree requirements prior to commencement will not be allowed to walk.

In past years, this might not have been such a big deal. If a student had to take a Maymester or summer course, they could at least walk in the December graduation. But with that option taken off the table, students would, if the proposal is approved, have to wait almost an entire year to walk across the stage.

This hardly seems fair.

Students who cannot complete their degree requirements before the summer semester should not be blacklisted. There are several reasons that a student would "fall behind" the normal track.

Some of these students just work at a slower pace or have had a more difficult time with their classes.

Academic struggles are enough to discourage students, but for the administration to throw it back in

their face adds insult to injury.

The fact that these students stuck with their studies should be commended, not punished.

Other students fall behind because they miss their opportunity to take a course that is necessary to graduate. Under the current system, many programs offer upper level classes on a three semester cycle. So a student can go an entire year without an essential class. In order for this new system to be fair, departments would have to offer all classes required to graduate every academic year.

This will not happen.

Still other students are currently encouraged by their departments to take internships during the summer, after they have completed the rest of the course load.

We must note at this point that mass communication is one of these majors. So under this proposed system, only a small percentage of one of the schools biggest majors will walk in May.

Walking across the stage at graduation is the capstone of the college saga. The act itself is almost laughable in it's simplicity. You stand at your name, walk forward, and are handed a sheet of paper.

That sheet of paper changes your life in many ways. That walk to receive that paper is a literal first step into a new world.

Should we have to pass that up because we are a few semester hours short of completing our degrees?

United States must win in fight for civilization



BY **Chris Pitts**
Columnist

Ever since Israel's was established in 1947, there has been a major conflict in each decade. First, there was the Arab-Israeli War, which Israeli's regard as their War of Independence, and which began in 1948. This conflict lasted until 1949 when a cease-fire agreement was accepted and "ended" the conflict.

That event set the precedent for what seems to have become a trend in Middle Eastern conflicts. The most recent example is the conflict Israel had with the radical terrorist group, Hezbollah, which began on July 12 of this year, and ended on Aug. 14, after an United Nations cease-fire agreement was adopted.

With so many major conflicts in the past 60 years, in a region rich with natural resources such as oil, Middle Eastern warfare has become a long-term problem for stability in the world's economy.

As a result, events in the Middle East have influenced world politics; many world leaders have included some plan for peace in the Middle Eastern region in their foreign policies.

Even our own presidents have mediated peace accords. But despite efforts, diplomacy hasn't worked! Giving land to the Palestinians for peace hasn't worked. Each conflict that has arisen has been postponed by useless cease-fires that only accumulate into other major conflicts a decade later. Israel and the surrounding Arab countries are not participants in a civil dispute gone awry, the surrounding countries want Israel annihilated. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran, has even stated publicly that Israel should be, "wiped off the map." Therefore, since diplomacy has not worked, a shorter, more efficient "road map to peace" should be implemented with two simple directions:

Step one: The United Nations needs to be abolished. Yes, this may seem a bit off subject and backward, but, this is a vital first step for peace. The U.N. has become a forum for modern anti-Semitism. Shortly after the escalation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, U.N. leaders shrugged the notion of Israel as a sovereign state and demanded that Israel stop defending their country and their citizens. This went further when the U.N. and Lebanon refused to uphold their end of the cease-fire agreement after its adoption. The U.N. has treated Israel as a constant aggressor and occupier and as long as the U.N. doesn't stop prolonging violence in the Middle East, peace can-

not be attained. Once Israel regains their sovereignty, step two can be realized.

Step two: Victory. Absolute victory. Any country or terrorist group that threatens the existence of Israel must be met with a strong military force, and a clear decisive victor in the war must be determined at the end. Anything else prolongs hostilities. The Palestinians do not want to coexist with Israel and neither do the surrounding Arab countries. For them, Israel must cease to exist. Ultimately, either Israel or the dictators who oppose Israel will be left standing when hostilities are over and for the safety of this world, it better be Israel.

In essence, Israel has been fighting a war for 60 years that the United States has only just realized it is in. A war on terror.

That is the tactic Israel's opposition uses. They use terror to strike fear in the hearts of Israelis in order to drive them out of the Middle East. But Israel should stand strong, with the United States behind them, and defeat those who threaten their existence. As President Bush said in his address last Monday, "This struggle has been called a clash of civilizations. In truth, this is a struggle for civilization." Israel is in this struggle as well, and for their country to be at peace, they must be victors in the end.

Send responses to
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

First Amendment loses a protector as the Dems begin banning books



BY **Andrew Adams**
Columnist

Last week, I wrote that republicans defend individual freedom in America. Of course, many readers probably noticed that there was one key freedom that I left out: the First Amendment.

That was not an accidental lapse, it was a purposeful one. The ways that democratic politicians of late have violated the First Amendment is so horrendous that I felt I needed to dedicate a full article to it.

Democrats always talk about republicans banning books. Sometimes democrats are so desperate to make this case that they will claim putting an "evolution is a theory" sticker on a middle grades science textbook is somehow classified as book burning. But would you believe that it is really the democrats who are trying to ban books? Believe it or not, it happened just three months ago. In New Jersey, two democratic assembly women brought a proposal before their state assembly to ban Ann Coulter's latest book "Godless" from being sold anywhere in the state. When their resolution failed, they went on a cru-

sade imploring booksellers not to stock Coulter's book. Though Coulter might have very conservative ideas that even some republicans wouldn't completely agree with, she still has the right to freedom of speech. It is ironic that while democrats ban Coulter's books, the Republican Party has never once tried to ban Michael Moore's books or movies.

In July 2004, Democrats had their convention in Boston, Mass. Many of the convention organizers didn't want news cameras to see protesters right outside of where they were organizing. So, they set up a huge cage that would hold up to 1,000 people and said that anyone who wanted to protest would have to protest inside of that cage. Libertarian talk show host Neal Boortz, who attended this convention, said that the cage was made of "chain link fencing and razor wire." Of course when time came about a month later for republicans to hold their convention, there were no cages. Democrats who wanted to protest were able to protest anywhere they wanted, up to the building in which republicans were holding the convention. Democrats value the right to protest if it's against a war they don't like, but they don't value the right to protest for anyone who disagrees with them.

Almost a week ago ABC showed a dramatized documentary called "The Path to 9/11." The facts presented in that documentary were based on the findings of the bipartisan 9/11

Commission which Congress initiated in late 2002. Clinton administration officials including National Security Advisor Samuel Berger and Secretary of State Madaleine Albright tried to scare ABC from showing the documentary. There you have high-level democrats talking about censoring a news outlet because they fear the public would be exposed to something they didn't want us to know about. Officials at ABC said the documentary was also very critical of the Bush administration and their handling of terrorism pre-9/11. However, republicans recognize the importance of a free press and a citizen's right to be informed on these matters.

Democratic politicians lately have shown to us that they are no longer the party of the First Amendment. Sometimes they feel a need to ban a book. Sometimes they just need to throw those pesky peaceful protesters inside a cage. Other times the solution to a problem is to force a news outlet to refrain from airing criticism. Most every liberal and democrat I personally know embraces freedom; especially the First Amendment. However, their party, on a national level does not. Americans of all political persuasions need to remind the democratic politicians that we still care for our freedoms.

Send responses to
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

Students' actions speak louder than their words



BY **Will Thompson**
Columnist

A raise in underage drinking tickets, unbelievably high parking tickets, nowhere to park, students getting kicked out of apartments downtown, nosy cops, crazy historic district Nazi ladies and so on and so forth.

The list of things that students complain about in Milledgeville is constantly growing. Each week in this very newspaper, a student can expect to find something involving one of these situations, be it in an article about how wrong something is or a student complaining in the Vent. Students are constantly grumbling about how so-and-so has to go home because she got arrested or my car got towed when I ran to do this or that. Well, I'm here to tell you a truth it took me almost 22 years to realize:

C O M P L A I N I N G
D O E S N ' T D O S Q U A T .

No matter what you think, there are logical reasons behind what is going on in this town; it really isn't just to piss off students. Let's look at the situation involving the "push" to get student renters out of the historic district. Yes, it is true this will kick all students living in apartment style houses out of the downtown area and mess up landlords' renter investments. But that is what they are trying to do. Why you ask? Well, because for one, many of these houses are not being kept up properly.

This affects Milledgeville's tourism industry (yes, there really is one) negatively. It also brings in lower city revenue through property taxes. Thirdly, students bother many citizens who live in the downtown area. This leads to the final reason: It causes the older citizens to act on it.

Yes, the ability of action is the largest factor in this equation. These older citizens, who do not like students living downtown, do what students normally don't do: They participate. They go to city council meetings, talk to their representatives, organize citizens' groups and vote. These actions create friction that causes the governmental machine to turn in their favor, as it always has throughout the time of

democracy. The battlefield of politics is just like any other battlefield. You have to have soldiers to win the battle. This is a concept that students seem to have failed to grasp.

Consider all major changes America has undergone in the past. From abolition to women's rights, one can find the common trait of group action. Group action is fed by individual action, which in turn is fed by belief. So, if your belief is strong enough, start acting. Register to vote, attend council meetings, call your governmental representatives, even organize a protest. If you don't like the drinking fines, let them know. If you want to continue to live downtown, show up to a meeting and show them you care. If you want orange to be the official color of Milledgeville, sign a petition and get it voted on. It's possible.

City council meetings are held every second and third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall on the second floor. For information regarding them or information on procedures of action, contact City Clerk Bo Danuser at bdanuser@milledgeville-ga.us.

Send responses to
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

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YOUR VOICE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Americans must focus on bipartisan legislation

Dear Editor,

The last two weeks in The Colonnade were filled with articles that bash the Republican and Democratic Parties. These new headlines don't seek to unite America, but divide America. This two-party system in America is flawed in that no other party can get active representation in any elections.

So, as Americans, we must vote for the party who best represents our ideals and beliefs in society. The only way that America can get things done a little smoother is through the use of bipartisan legislation that benefits all Americans. In a nation filled with freedoms, why do I have to vote for all republicans or democrats in a primary. America should avoid, and for that fact, abolish party primaries. They serve no purpose, but only for candidates to sling mud and dirt at each other. I look forward to the day when this could change and maybe a true moderate could become President of the United States.

Sincerely,
Tavias Bennett
History
Sophomore

Book prices are a real problem

Dear Editor,

I was very glad to see the article about book price monopolies. Book prices really are a problem, and it deserves serious attention. However, I must address the issue of buying books online. I have been buying my books online for a couple years now, and I have saved thousands of dollars doing so!

At the beginning of every semester, students are always complaining about book prices. But when I ask people, they all seem to say that they bought their books at PawPrints and didn't even bother looking elsewhere.

When I tell them that I bought all my books online and saved hundreds of dollars, they are usually shocked. Take this semester for example. As a senior taking 18 hours, my books would have cost me over \$800 after taxes. But I bought all my books online and paid less than \$400. Your article said that there are dangers involved with buying online, but I don't agree.

Why are people afraid of buying a \$20 book online but they have no problem buying a \$100 pair of shoes?

When you buy your books online, you search by the ISBN number and you get the exact book. Sure it's probably used, but you're only going to use it for four months anyway. And who cares if you have to pay for shipping, at least you don't have to pay a tax!

Oh and one more thing. That sign that's up in the PawPrints bookstore that compares the prices of books online to their prices is false advertising. I almost always find my books for less than half the price of the bookstore, so don't believe their propaganda.

Sincerely,
Dallas Loewen
International Business
Senior

O'Donnell's view on Iraq war belittles troops, hurts credibility

Dear Editor,

Tuesday morning I tuned into the television show "The View" and was shocked and completely turned off by the unprofessional and down-right rude antics of Rosie O'Donnell. In the show's "Hot Topics" segment Ms. O'Donnell recalled President Bush's statement in an address the night before, "The safety of our country was being fought in the streets of Baghdad."

She argued that the safety of our country didn't reside in Baghdad but rather in the streets of New Orleans. I feel I need to remind Ms. O'Donnell that a complete and utter act of war was declared on our country Sept. 11, 2001.

We are still waging that war with the people and nations who support them.

By pulling out the towel before the race is finished, the terrorist would see themselves as victorious at our surrender. We have invested too much and made too much progress to do that now. She believes our focus should be in New Orleans rather than in Iraq.

I am not sure how fond she would be at the idea of sitting at Café Du Monde, eating her beignets with dirty bombs exploding around her and biological warfare being commonplace in her or her children's lives.

By smothering out Al Qaeda and other terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan we are building two windows of democracy and peace that would serve as an oasis of example for the rest of the region. It is imperative that we do all we can for New Orleans, but we must be mindful to not abandon our obligations in Iraq along the way.

When asking the panel what they thought about the president's speech last night, she was open to everyone's opinion except that of Elizabeth Hasselbeck who thought positively of the speech and the direction our country was taking. O'Donnell continually cut Mrs. Hasselbeck off not allowing her a word in edgewise.

She used her abrasive rhetoric to degrade Elizabeth and make her appear wrong and completely uneducated. "The View" is an important exercise of the First Amendment and allows debate and different opinions on a variety of topics. Their different views on politics and debate about them are an essential part of democracy.

I celebrate "The View's" efforts to contribute to a healthy democracy. What I don't celebrate is the fact that everyone cannot equally present and debate their opinion on the show. This morning it was as if the whole panel was teaming up on Elizabeth and the president. This was a disservice to the forum of healthy debate they have worked these nine years to establish.

I seriously question Ms. O'Donnell's credibility and place on the show. She needs to be willing to allow others the floor if she would like the same in return. She also needs to be mindful that there are troops in Iraq risking their lives everyday for her safety, and she need not belittle their efforts by saying the real battlefield for safety rests in New Orleans.

Sincerely,
Adam Hammond
Political Science
Junior

THE COLONNADE POLICY: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- The Colonnade encourages readers to express their views and opinions by sending letters to the editor at: CBX 2442; Milledgeville, Ga. 31061 or by e-mail at colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu
- All letters must be typed and include:
- names
 - address/ Email address
 - telephone number
 - year of study
 - major
 - Only your name, year of study and major will be listed.
 - Unsigned letters will not be printed. Names will be withheld only under very unusual circumstances.
 - Letters longer than 300 words may be condensed.
 - All letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.
 - All letters become the property of The Colonnade and cannot be returned.
 - We are not able to acknowledge their receipt or disposition. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor in Chief.

The Bobcat Beat

"Have you rushed for a fraternity or sorority? Why or why not?"



"No. I'm a freshman. I'm planning on it; I think so."

Garrett Davis
Freshman
Business



"Yes. My grandma was in one and I thought it would be interesting."

Catherine Turcotte
Freshman
Biology



"No. Just never had interest in joining."

Wayne Rigsby
Junior
Marketing



"No. [I have no] Money and [I] can have fun without registering for a fraternity."

Stuart Heath
Sophomore
Marketing

Beat Reported by Brittany Thomas

THE LITTER BOX

ColonnadeVent - Instant Message

To the jerks at Bobcat who can't read a sign that tells you to put trash in the compressor: Are you really so lazy that you have to put the trash can on the rail rather than just tossing it into the compressor? Who exactly do you expect to clean up after your laziness?

Last time I checked, I went to Georgia College & State University...not iPod College & State University. Can we push how academically competitive we are instead of iPod usage? Its pretty embarrassing when David Lettermen makes fun of GCSU for the usage of iPods.

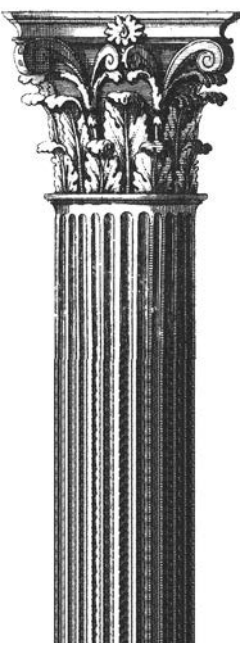
Thanks for that article on the protest. I didn't read the whole thing, but it gave me the idea for my Halloween costume; a hippie!

To Mr. Mark Suckerberg. Your little apology in no way makes me feel one bit better about your idiotic actions. Mostly. Your moronic news feed was mostly stupid. You are a moron and will always be a moron. At best, you over-reached on your little news feed thingy. At worst, you are a stupid imbecile.

In response to "Congress Comes to Campus" where one candidate (the republican) attacks the other for astonishingly wearing pink pants: If pink pants are cool, consider me Miles Davis.

I wish everyone would support our school teams a bit more. If people would go out and cheer for our teams it would give them more confidence and give us a better home field advantage.

Got something to say about anything? Send us a message about whatever you want to vent about at screen name ColonnadeVent at any time, on any day of the week.



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- Washer and dryer in all units
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Georgia College & State University			

What's Happening?	
September 15 - September 21	
Friday, September 15	
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Art Exhibit: Researched- Michael Marks, Museum Sex and the City Marathon, Pine Lounge,
Saturday, September 16	
Sunday, September 17	
Monday, September 18	
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Art Exhibit: Researched- Michael Marks, The Museum at GCSU on 221 N. Clarke St.
3 - 5:30 p.m.	Venture Out! Tree Climbing Clinic, Front Campus Colonnade Photojournalism Meetings, MSU 28
4 p.m.	GLBT Support Group, Lanier 130, Contact
7 p.m.	Counseling Services at 478-4455331 for more info
8 p.m.	Federation of Christian Athletes (FCA) Huddle Meeting, Pine Lounge in Student Activities Center
Tuesday, September 19	
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Art Exhibit: Researched- Michael Marks, The Museum at GCSU on 221 N. Clarke St.
5 p.m.	What Does Liberation Look Like?: A Comparison of the American And Chinese Movements to Liberate Women, Museum Education Room
7 p.m.	The "N" Word Discussion- The Power of Words, A&S Auditorium
8 p.m.	BCM Synergy, Magnolia Room
Wednesday, September 20	
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Art Exhibit: Researched- Michael Marks, The Museum at GCSU on 221 N. Clarke St.
10 - 11:30 a.m.	Career Center Wonderful Wednesdays: Resume & Cover Letter, 232 Lanier Hall
12:30 - 1:45 p.m.	Fall Faculty Meeting, A&S Auditorium
4 p.m.	Project Impact, GIVE Center
5 p.m.	SIFE Meeting, Atkinson Hall 208
6 p.m.	A.N.G.E.L.S, Blackbird Coffee Shop
6 p.m.	POV Movie Premiere of Al Otro Lado (To The Other Side), A&S Auditorium
7 p.m.	Campus Outreach: 180, Peabody Auditorium
7 p.m.	Wesley House, MSU Lounge
8:30 p.m.	International Club Coffee Night, Kilpatrick Atrium
Thursday, September 21	
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Art Exhibit: Researched- Michael Marks, The Museum at GCSU on 221 N. Clarke St.
6 p.m - 8 p.m.	Mansion Series III: Mrs. Sonya Delaney - "Pencil Elegance: The Interiors of the Old Governor's Mansion," Education Building, Old Governor's Mansion
7:30 p.m.	"The Origins of Humankind: The View from Africa, Magnolia Ballroom

...Now Hear This...

American Democracy Project at GCSU will register 200 students to vote as part of a multi-state registration project.

Beginning this week, a group of students at GCSU volunteering with the American Democracy Project as part of the Coverdell Institute are blanketing the Milledgeville campus with opportunities to register to vote as students return to campus for the fall semester. "Our goal is to have 200 GCSU students registered by the deadline for the fall primary on Oct. 10," said C.J. Davis, a senior rhetoric major. With the voter-registration movement, GCSU joins 150 college and university campuses with similar goals. The movement is part of a national non-partisan educational movement to register 40,000 college-aged voters this election year.

The initiative is a joint effort between GCSU faculty and students, including Dr. Jan Hoffmann, a professor of rhetoric, Greg Kauffman of the Coverdell Institute, and Dr. Sandra Godwin of the department of government and sociology. Students spearheading the movement include C.J. Davis, Elle Garrison, Sam Cohen, and Barron Webster, all students in the rhetoric program at GC&SU.

"There are over 5,000 students at GCSU - by registering now and voting on Nov. 7, we can have a significant impact on Election Day. This initiative ties inextricably with the liberal arts mission of this university. It stresses civic involvement and responsibility as well as an engaging of the student in the real world. This is learning and living beyond the classroom walls," said Webster, former student government association treasurer.

"I'm concerned about a lot of big issues - tuition costs, social security, the economy, and the war. I want to make sure my elected officials pay attention to the issues my generation cares about," said Garrison. "I registered to vote when I got my license, and now I'm volunteering with the American Democracy Project to get 200 GCSU students registered by our deadline."

Dr. Jan Hoffmann is quite enthused about the registration movement's impact on campus and the nation at large saying, "Democracy is a civilized argument about how people should govern themselves. Our democracy is only as strong as the willingness of people to engage in the argument."

New Policy on Non-GCSU Shuttles to take Effect Sept. 18, 2006

Georgia College & State University will no longer allow non-GCSU shuttles to access university property as of September 18, 2006. This new policy is the result of several issues, including the safety of GCSU students and the convenience of those students residing at Bobcat Village.

On the issue of safety, GCSU believes the routes some non-GCSU shuttles take to access the campus are dangerous, in some cases crossing over four lanes of traffic. It is for this reason GCSU re-routed its own shuttles to the rear of Bobcat Village, removing the need to make any left hand turns across the busy intersection of Highway 441 Bypass and West Campus Drive.

It is the goal of GCSU to provide the best and safest shuttle service possible to the residents of Bobcat Village. To help reduce delays to GCSU shuttle operations, it is necessary to prohibit non-GCSU shuttles from entering the Bobcat Village complex. This will eliminate the problem of non-GCSU shuttles arriving at inconsistent times and the potential problem of GCSU shuttles having to wait while their stop is blocked. In addition, this will help reduce the possibility of overcrowded buses.

We hope all GCSU students will understand that the university is not in a position to provide shuttle services to private housing developments which do not contribute substantially to the cost of its operation. Bobcat Village funds a significant portion (\$90,000) of the GCSU Shuttle program budget and as such, it is the only apartment complex at which GCSU shuttles stop.

Public Safety Report

Public Safety responds to argument at Bobcat Village

On Sept. 7, Officer Williams was dispatched to Bobcat Village in reference to a verbal altercation in the parking lot. Contact was made with one of the students involved, who advised she was having an argument with her boyfriend, also a student. None of the students wanted to press charges.

Nothin' but the taillights

On Sept. 7, at approximately 11:23 p.m., Officer Williams observed a vehicle at Wilkinson Street without working taillights. A traffic stop was made and contact was made with the driver. A check through GCIC revealed that the registration was expired. He also found several open containers in the vehicle. The driver and the passenger, a student, were arrested and transported to Milledgeville Police Department and charged with underage possession of alcohol. The driver was also issued a citation for suspended registration. The vehicle was immediately towed.

Item riding shotgun causes worry for Public Safety

On Sept. 7, at 11:53 p.m., Officer Gaines observed a vehicle run a red light at Wilkinson and Montgomery Streets. A traffic stop was initiated and as Officer Gaines was approaching the vehicle, he observed a shotgun between the driver and the passenger. Fearing for his safety, Officer Gaines drew his weapon, ordering the driver and passenger to keep their hands visible, and called for back up. Officer Williams and Sergeant Tuft arrived at the scene and both driver and passenger were handcuffed until the scene was secure and the gun unloaded. Once the scene was secured, the gun was returned to the driver and handcuffs were removed. The driver was issued a citation for disregard of a traffic control device.

Students contribute to campus irrigation

On Sept. 8, at 2:49 a.m., Officer Williams observed two males urinating in the flower pots on front campus. Contact was made with both individuals, who were arrested

and transported to Milledgeville Police Department and charged with disorderly conduct.

So did they leave the car on the tracks?

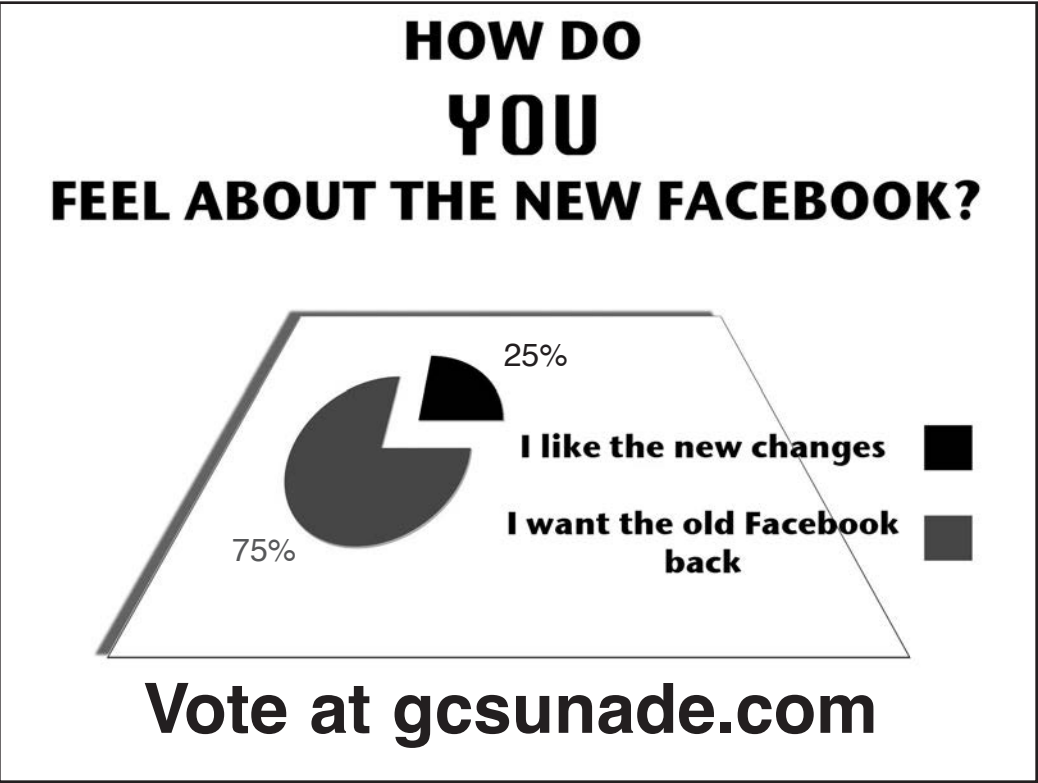
On Sept. 8, at 3:33 a.m., Officer Williams observed a vehicle on Greene Street disregard the stop sign at the railroad tracks. A traffic stop was initiated and contact made with the driver. Officer Williams observed that the driver's eyes were bloodshot and could smell the odor of alcoholic beverage coming from her person. The driver was arrested and transported to Milledgeville Police Department and charged with underage possession of alcohol. The vehicle was left at the scene of the stop.

Vehicle statistics as of 9/10/06

Total registered vehicles – 3309
Students – 3111
Employees – 419
Citations issued for this week – 198
Employees – 15
Students – 174
97.2% of all tickets written were for "out of zone / no permit."
2.8% of all tickets were written for "expired permits."

Information compiled by Renato Oliveira, with statistics provided by Greg Brown, Manager of the Department of Parking and Transportation

Go online to gcsunade.com for more



- THE SGA NEWSFEED -

Students have started classes and are now back into the swing of things. This can only mean one thing: The Student Government Association is back in action and ready to represent the students of GC&SU. This year SGA has many new goals, including focusing on increasing their visibility with GC&SU students, and becoming more involved within the community. The new 2006-2007 SGA is excited about the upcoming year and is looking forward to making a lot of progress throughout the next two semesters. SGA is here for the students and is always ready to listen and be a huge part of the student body's newest concerns and thoughts. If any students have any new ideas, complaints, or opinions dealing with the GC&SU campus, please feel free to contact us by coming to the SGA office in the Student Activities Center. We are here to make a difference for the students of the university, and are always ready for the next student opinion.

Look in the Colonnade weekly for updates on what your Student Government Association is doing, and how we are directly affecting students throughout Georgia College and State University. The new school year is here, and SGA is ready to make a difference. Helps us achieve our goals by staying in touch with SGA, and giving us as much of your feedback as possible. Welcome back GC&SU!

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FEATURES

Colonnade Guide to Art, Entertainment and Recreation



BMX rider's bikes take flight



Photo by Brittany Thomas

Junior Patrick McAfee makes a dangerous 180° jump over a set of stairs into the East McIntosh Street and South Wayne Street.

BY **Jason Hughes**

It's tough to spot a BMX rider in Milledgeville or find someone who even knows what BMX riding is. Aside from the exhibitions brought by the Tour de Georgia in recent years, people around Milledgeville haven't seen or heard much of anything about the sport. That is, until now.

A group of students from around campus have come together and made an unofficial riding club that pedals around Milledgeville in search of that perfect "six-set" (set of stairs) or ledge on which to defy gravity.

Patrick McAfee, Jonathan Bast, Jonathan Austin, Ryan Davis, Jaeyoung Wi and a few others could be called the official members of the unofficial BMX club.

"A lot of people around

town will yell and tell me to do tricks again," said McAfee about the reactions that people give him while riding. "We get noticed, but I don't get as much from people around here as I do in Atlanta. Sometimes people will heckle you... some people are interested; some people make fun of you, but I don't really let it bother me."

Bast, spent part of his summer at Camp Woodward, a training facility for skateboarders, gymnasts, and, of course, BMX riders. The camp, in Woodward, Pa., is known worldwide and some of its instructors include Olympians and professional athletes – The X Games and other international events have been held there. "A lot of people think that we have need for

an adrenaline fix, but were really out there just to have fun," said Bast.

"At this age [22 yrs.] it becomes almost a lifestyle. A lot of the guys like me, Jon, and Ryan hang out and ride bikes, and that's what we spend our time doing," said Austin. What seems strangest to most people is seeing grown men ride bikes that look like they've been stolen from little kids. These bikes, however, are far from toys.

"My bike is worth around \$2000, but I built it over a long period of time so it's really not that bad," said McAfee. BMX stands for bicycle motor cross and it essentially started from the same style of racing as Moto-Cross, except with bikes instead of motorcycles. Over time people started doing tricks over jumps; others began

customizing their own bikes to do certain tricks. The two main types of riding are racing and freestyle. From these styles stem vert, racing, dirt jumping, street, and park competitions.

One thing that BMX riders and other extreme sports enthusiasts have in common is guts. Some of the tricks that regular riders perform are dangerous, but those participating often say, "It's really not as bad as you think. I normally take a couple runs at [a jump or trick] before I do it and that shot of adrenaline right before tells me I'm ready," said McAfee. "If the trick is something real hard I try not to think about it too much or at all, I'll think about random stuff – ice and things like that."

Please see
BMX on pg. 9



Photo by Lizanne Wheeler

Joe Owens of Bluz Tattoos touches up Sarah Anderson's tattoo on her foot.

Body art popular

BY **Corey Dickstein**

The walls were covered with artwork and a constant buzzing filled the room as Robert Bell walked into Uncle Freddie's in Buford to get his first tattoo.

Bell, a sophomore, business major, chose a tribal band to encircle his left calf. Bell said he always wanted a tattoo and chose this design because no one he knew had one like it.

"I was a little nervous at first," he said. "I didn't know what it was going to feel like."

Like Bell, many GCSU students are getting tattoos as their popularity increases especially among college-aged people.

Tattoos have become so popular that 36% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 now have at least one tattoo, according to a recent study published in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology.

College students get them because they see them on celebrities and on professional athletes, according to Michelle Owens, a tattoo artist at Bluz Tattooz.

"It's a trend, a way to express themselves," she said. The trend lies within placement of the tattoo and not necessarily in design, said the owner of Pair-O-Dice Tattoo and Body Piercing, known only as Charlie.

He said that men typically place them on the arms, chest or back, while women typically want them on the lower back or hips.

Please see
TATTOO on pg. 9

Bring Christmas to area children



photo special to The Colonnade

Chris Turner with a Santa's Miracle Network participant.

BY **Jessica Murphy**

Have you been trying to find a way to get involved on campus but you just don't know what to do? How about getting involved with Santas Miracle Fund, a non-profit organization that benefits local disabled children and their siblings on Christmas.

Chris Turner, a sophomore general business major, founded Santas Miracle Fund his senior year of high school and the fund has been a success ever since.

"I got the choice to pick my senior project and I knew I wanted to do some-

thing that would benefit the (Augusta) community and that is why I started Santas Miracle Fund," says Turner.

Santas Miracle Fund provides disabled children an entire day of Christmas fun which includes lunch and a movie with Santa Claus. After they tell Santa what they want for Christmas, they get surprised with a trip to Toys-R-Us, where they each receive a \$100 shopping spree.

Santas Miracle Fund is going on it's second year here at GCSU and had great success last year. The fund raised \$2,000 for local

disabled children in the Macon area.

This year the money raised will not only benefit children in the local Milledgeville/Macon community, it will also be benefiting children in the Augusta area as well.

Jennifer Arroyo, a senior history and education major, has been involved with Santas Miracle Fund for over a year now. Arroyo holds a position on the board of directors for Santas Miracle Fund and is looking forward to this year.

"The greatest part about Santas Miracle Fund is the look on those kids faces," says Arroyo.

Santas Miracle Fund has several fundraisers in the works to help raise money for the fund this year.

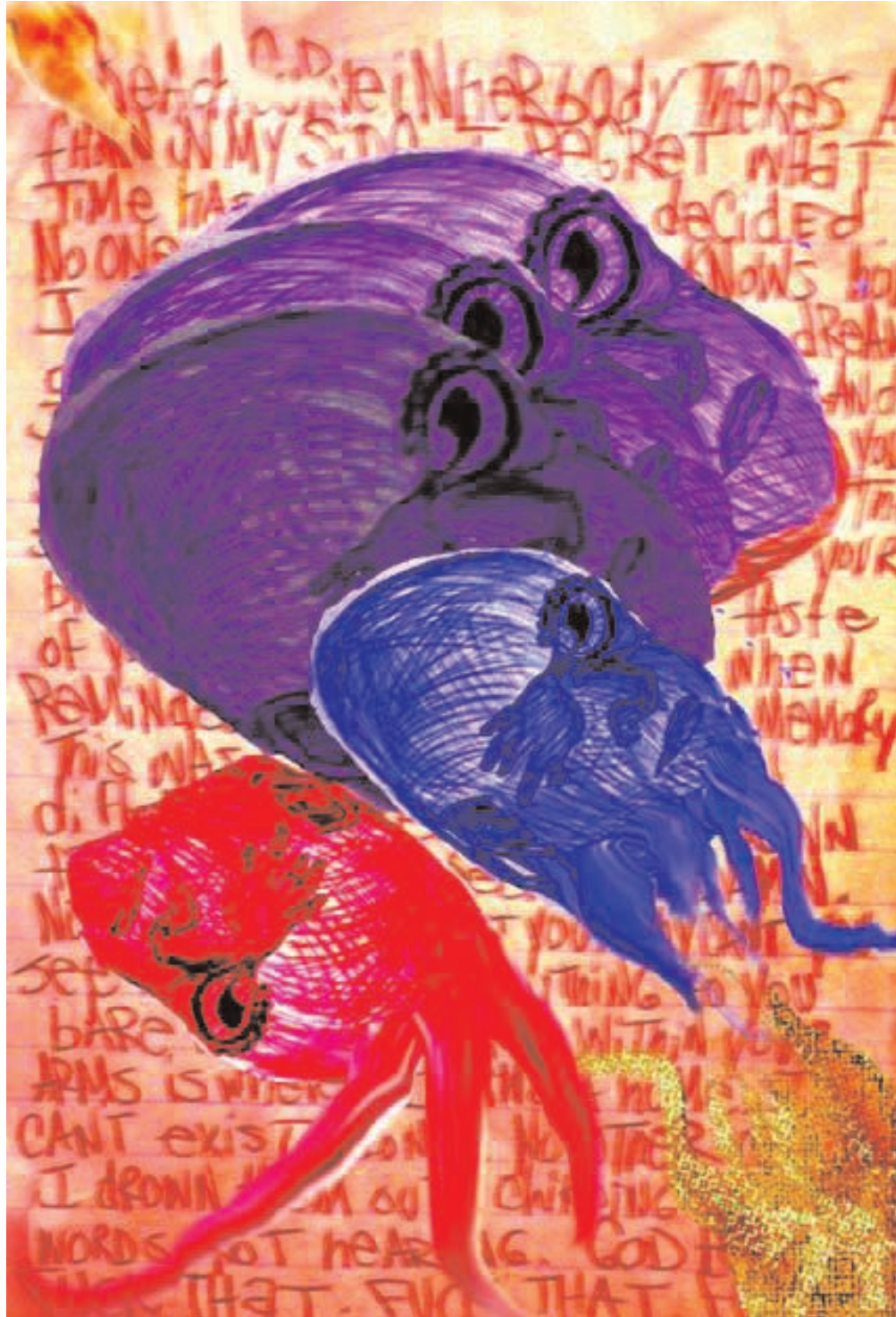
"We are in the process of putting together a fraternity boxing tournament as one of the main fundraisers," says Turner.

Along with the boxing tournament, the fund will be hosting corporate dinners with local businesses along with getting involved with Wal-Mart to help raise money for the fund. The goals for the 2006 are to raise \$10,000 which will benefit over 100 children, operate a successful website and win program of the year.

Patricia Barbre, a sophomore marketing major, found that getting involved with Santa's Miracle Fund was easy.

Please see
CHRISTMAS on pg. 9

Art of the Week



Repeat Head by Senior Art Major Mat Glaser

Fitness Brief



BY Devin Vernick

Ramen Noodles, Pop-Tarts, and a box of Lucky Charms are all jockeying for a position ins a space designed to hold much less. No, this is not a picture of the bargain basket at Kroger, it is the snack selection in a typical dorm room.

Nutrition does not receive enough attention in the life of many GCSU students. That could explain the abundance of junk food consumed by many during the college years.

Travis Davidson, a sophomore nursing major at GCSU, witnessed this scene during his freshman year.

“I ate Spaghettios, ravioli, chips, and a lot of junk food in the beginning. I usually ate when I got bored, it was unhealthy,” Davidson said.

The “freshman 15” is a myth that haunts many incoming college students. While every student will not gain 15 pounds, some gain will more than likely occur, according to a recent study by Journal of American College Health.

“It was really noticeable my second year to see how much weight some people had gained since

freshman year. I think a lack of exercise and making excuses to not do anything, along with junk food, is probably the reason for that,” said Chris Russell, a senior history major at GCSU.

Thirty-five hundred calories converts into one pound of fat. Eating high calorie snacks during late night hours may be one of the largest contributing factors leading to the poor physical health experienced by many college students. The body, less physically active at night, does not burn off calories quite the same as during the day, when an individual is more physically active.

The next time you think about going to Taco Bell at 1 a.m., keep in mind that one regular taco contains 200 calories. Eating three of these, two times at week late at night will add up to 1,200 additional calories an individual will consume before sleeping.

Healthier alternatives to typical snack foods are easy to come by. Bananas, carrot sticks, pretzels and peanuts, are just a few healthy alternatives to keep in mind the next time the 2 a.m. hanger pangs kick in again.

Tinsley Smith, a sophomore with an undeclared major, has changed her eating habits since her days living in Parkhurst Hall.

“I always ate late at night when I was in the dorms, since we would stay up so late. I didn’t gain the freshman 15; I was lucky. I am in much better health now than what I was in last year,” Smith said.

BMX:

Continued from page 8

Until just a few months ago, the riders would practice their skills riding around on trails and at the skate park next to the Golden Pantry, but the park was closed and the trails were bulldozed. Other than the campus and a couple of bank parking lots “there’s nothing really around here, it’s all in Atlanta,” said Bast.

The guys do admit that it is frustrating not having a place to ride without getting harassed, but it comes with the territory.

Tattoo:

Continued from page 8

“The designs are just as varied as the individual,” Charlie said. “Females tend to want sexy, cute things but guys get all sorts of designs.”

Charlie also stresses that information is very obtainable, for students particularly, via the Internet and that many students take advantage of this.

“Most of the students that come in already know what to look for and what questions to ask,” he said.

Charlie wants students to be informed on the issue and said that is why he and

“We basically ride around the streets of Atlanta or Milledgeville looking for a place to ride, and it’s not like people invite us to go ride on their ledges so we have to make do.” Bast said. Oftentimes, it just so happens that the perfect ledge, crevice or ramp happens to be on the other side of a locked fence and part of the excitement comes from hopping that fence and riding anyway.

Some of the guys expressed their interest in the creation of a school-sponsored club. Until that become a reality, the riders will continue to roam around the city looking for other places to hone their craft.



Photo by Britany Thomas
Patrick McAfee demonstrates his technical BMX skills.

his wife have been working with the school for the past five years including doing resident assistant presentations in the dorms.

“There’s a pretty strong desire for (tattoos) and the more information a person has, the better decision he can make,” Charlie said.

He said that he thinks students understand how serious tattoos are and that they are permanent.

“You have to know that there are risks, safety has to be taken into consideration.”

Safety is an issue that worries Alice Loper, director of student health services.

“The dangers include infections such as hepatitis

B and C, AIDS and other blood born illnesses.” Loper said.

She said hepatitis B and C do not always go away and can lead to liver damage and cancer.

Students need to consider everything before being tattooed, said Sallie Coke, a campus nurse practitioner. They need to realize there are other, less permanent options such as henna tattoos that are safe because they do not break the skin.

“The biggest thing is that the skin is your first barrier to disease and you don’t want to endanger that,” she said.

Coke also said that if a student is going to get a tattoo to place it somewhere it

can be covered up at a job interview. This idea is shared by tattoo artists who will sometimes help students with their decisions.

“Sometimes we’ll try to slow them down,” Owens said. “We talk more students out of (getting tattoos) than into them, especially when they come in and want something big on their forearm.”

Bell said he has no regrets about getting his first tattoo, and that he will definitely be getting another.

“I’m going with a friend next week for him to get his,” he said. “I’m not ready yet, to get another, but I’ll be looking.”

Christmas:

Continued from page 8

“I lived next door to Chris in the dorms last year and I got to talking to him about

Santa’s Miracle Fund and it sounded really cool so I asked him how I could get involved,”

says Barbre. “I went to an informational meeting and learned more about the fund and I signed up to help and have been a part of it ever since.”

Patricia is now maiden of mistletoe. She takes photos at events, she is in the process of putting together a scrapbook and she is also in charge of putting together slide shows.

Santa’s Miracle Fund is also in need of more board members. They are in need of a fundraiser director, event planner and a website designer. If you are intrested in any of these positions contact Santa’s Miracle Fund.

Santa’s Miracle Fund is an excellent way to help out the surrounding community

and is also a good way to help those in need during the holiday season.

If you are interested in getting involved with Santa’s Miracle Fund join the Facebook group or fill out an application at The GIVE Center and they will provide Santa’s Miracle Fund with your information and they will contact you.

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Body
BY
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Each semester, the GEM Program matches approximately 20 outstanding GCSU undergraduate students with prominent state leaders in business, education, politics, healthcare, and industry. These executives serve as mentors for the students, providing an opportunity for them to identify and understand the qualities of leadership that benefit both the professional world and the community.

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For more information on the GEM Program, please contact John Bowen, GEM Program Liaison, at john.bowen@gcsu.edu.



SPORTS

The Sports Guy

By Wes Brown



Home Sweet Home?

Many teams in the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) have the luxury of playing games at home. The GCSU cross country teams have no such luxury. The cross country program has not hosted a meet since 2002.

When construction began on West Campus for Bobcat Village, the team's old track was demolished. Although construction has been done for a new track, it will not be finalized until next year at the earliest. Is this good for the team.

There are both pros and cons to the issue. The upside of this situation is that the lack of a home track builds team chemistry. Coach Samprone proved this argument best.

"Traveling imposes team chemistry," Samprone said. "The team bonds on the road. My runners may only see each other at practice when we are at home. When we are on the road, the team is constantly seeing each other on the bus and in the hotel. Runners get to talk and become friends when we travel."

While that is all nice and friendly, I am still convinced that it is a shame that our cross-country team does not get to run at home.

One advantage that other teams have over us is track familiarity. Teams that run at home know all the dips and hills on their track and when to prepare for them.

"I think that racing at home would be nice," Assistant Athletics Director for Public Relations Brad Muller said. "I think runners would like to defend their home turf. They would know course well and feel comfortable."

Moreover racing at home would be easier and it would save money. The university would not have pay for travel expenses. Runners would be able to roll out of bed, go run their race and then go to lunch with their friends.

If you have any comments about this column please send a response to colonnadesports@gcsu.edu.



Photo by Shelley Watson

Junior Richard Dobson (L) ices his ankle during practice at West Campus with junior Michael Hague (R). The two are top runners on the cross country teams as well as roommates. Richard Dobson was named the Peach Belt Conference Runner of the Week, the first ever runner ever at GCSU to win the award.

Dobson continues to rise to the top

BY Wes Brown

Cross Country runner Richard Dobson has taken many by surprise. The junior from New Hamburg, Ontario, became the first GCSU runner to earn the honor as Peach Belt Conference Men's Cross Country Runner of the Week.

Dobson locked the award by winning the North Georgia Challenge in Dahlonega on Aug. 26 to help the Bobcats take first place in the nine-team meet. Dobson ran the mountainous 5k course in 17 minutes, 43 seconds, beating his nearest competitor by 16 seconds.

"The discipline [Dobson] exhibits is incredible," Head Coach Joe Samprone said. "He knows what he needs to do and he does it. There may be someone out there that will be there but no one is more dedicated."

The once abysmal runner has made a complete turnaround in just three seasons. Dobson came to GCSU in 2004 as a fresh-

man. He heard about the school from his uncle Steve Barsby, the head coach of the men's and women's team at GCSU. Dobson was impressed with what GCSU had to offer and made the trip from Canada to GCSU. During his freshman year, his uncle encouraged him to run for the school's cross country team. Dobson took his advice and joined the team as a walk-on.

His first year on the team did not go smoothly. Dobson mainly stayed in the back of the pack only running in four meets, but he did have a few shining moments finishing in GCSU's top five twice.

"In the first year he ran, he didn't finish in the (overall) top five," Samprone said. "He was not an outstanding runner, but in the spring he decided to make a serious commitment to get better."

After 2004, Dobson made it his goal to be in the top five runners of the team. Dobson first went to Dr. Mike Martino, associate professor of exercise

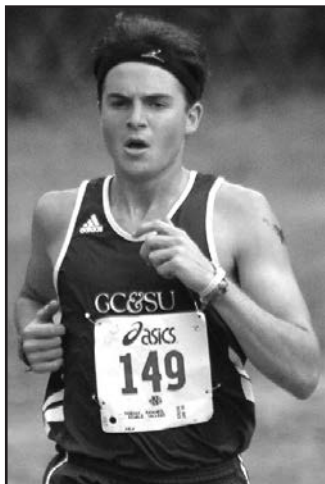


Photo Special to The Colonnade

Junior Richard Dobson finished first in the North Georgia Challenge in Dahlonega on Aug. 26 running the 5K course in 17 minutes, 43 seconds.

science. Martino gave him some advice to increase his speed.

"I went to visit my exercise science professor Dr. Martino for some tips," Dobson said. "First he told me to lose 20 pounds. I changed my diet and training methods. He is a huge reason why I am where I

am today."

The next thing Dobson did was to surround himself with the fastest runners on the team. He began to train and practice with Michael Hague.

"When I was a sophomore Michael was the fastest runner," Dobson said. "He was the man with a plan. I made it my goal to keep pace with Michael."

Dobson also found ways to improve his style in his exercise science classes.

"My major (exercise science) has had a major impact on my improvement," Dobson said. "Anything that I learned in the classroom I would try to apply to running."

The next season Dobson showed great improvement. He was the Bobcat's top finisher in all six meets as a sophomore in 2005, with an impressive win at the Oglethorpe Invitational in Atlanta (28:59) and a season best 8K time of 27:23 at the Peach Belt Conference Championships.

"Rich Dobson is a stud," junior runner Michael

Hague said. "When I was a freshman I didn't even know who he was and now he is the guy everyone is trying to beat. He is extremely dedicated to the sport."

The main thing Dobson learned is to remain relaxed.

"Before each race I try to relax. I keep a good pace the first mile of the race, I see a lot of runners rush out ahead and make mistakes. I usually talk with Michael for the first mile and for the rest of the time I try to sing a song in my head. Last race I sang 'Move Along' by the All American Rejects."

This year Dobson already shows signs of continuing his path toward excellence. He plans to win conference and make it to regionals and nationals.

"My goal is to win conference. If we win conference, we get an automatic bid to regionals and can advance to nationals," Dobson said. "We have a legitimate shot to win conference and qualify for nationals."

Smith gets with the ladies

BY Wes Brown

Maurice Smith is continuously climbing the chain of command in the GCSU basketball program.

After playing two seasons as a Bobcat and spending three years as a student and graduate assistant for the men's team, Smith has been named the assistant coach for the GCSU women's basketball program. Smith takes the reigns from Tabitha Vasilas, who left the school recently after two years to pursue other interests. Head Coach John Carrick is confident about the new addition.

"[Smith] brings youthful enthusiasm to the program," Carrick said. "He also understands the game well and can provide many new and bright ideas. He will help to keep me on my toes."

Smith is familiar with GCSU basketball. He played as a Bobcat from 1999-2001, helping the GCSU men's team win a conference title and reach the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament in 2000. "Moe", as he is known around campus, also served as a student-assistant under GCSU men's basketball head coach Terry Sellers in 2003-04 before spending the last two seasons as a graduate assistant coach with the Bobcats.

"The great thing about taking this job is that I already know most of the girls and I have a good relationship with them," Smith said. "The pieces are in place. I want to be the person who gets the most potential out of my players."

Smith and Carrick have a longstanding relationship. Smith's high school coach, Darren Wilkins, formerly of Sumter County High School, was a former assistant to Carrick. Carrick grew to know Smith when GCSU first recruited him.

"The timing was absolutely wonderful for the program," Carrick said. "When you hire from outside the university there is always the hassle of checking references and getting to know the person, but I have known [Smith] forever. The only thing he has to learn is women and their differences from men. [Smith] will definitely have a few hair-pulling-out sessions throughout the season."

The team is currently conditioning for the upcoming season. They already impressed by his coaching approach.

Please see **SMITH** on pg. 11

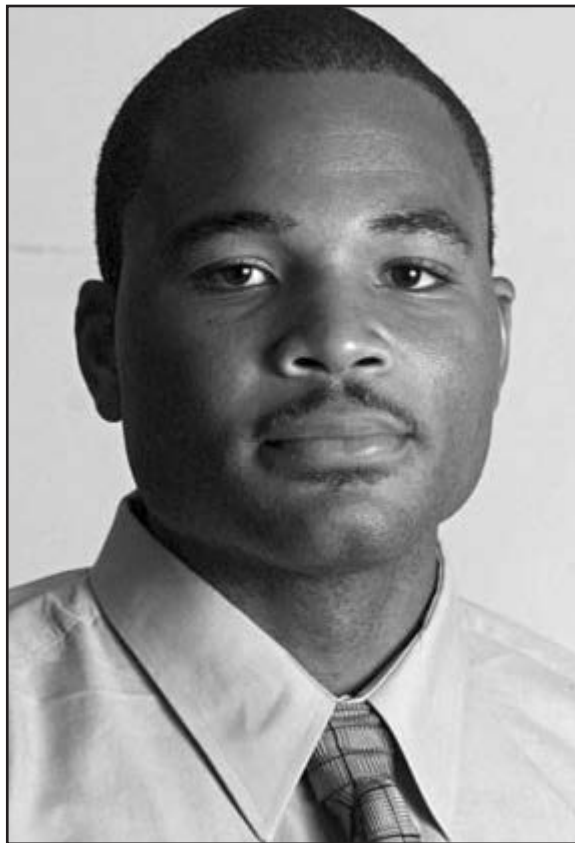


Photo Special to The Colonnade

Maurice Smith, former graduate assistant of the Men's basketball team, becomes the new women's assistant coach.

THE SHORT STOP

KEY GAMES

Cross Country:
Sat. @Oglethorpe Invitational

Cheerleading:
Fri. 12:30 p.m. Centennial Center

Golf:
Mon-Tue. @Francis Marion
Raines Intercollegiate

Women's Soccer:
Sat. 1 p.m. @UNC Pembroke*

* denotes PBC games

STAT of the WEEK

16

The number of stroke improvement for the golf team in the Kiawah Island Invitational last week. The Bobcats Bobcats shot a 300 on the first day and a 316 on the second day to finish with a two-day 616.

Flag football returns: grueling five week season commences

BY **A.J. Foss**

It seems that GCSU students are ready for some flag football.

Flag football, one of the most popular intramural sports on campus, began its new season on Monday. The league will have three divisions with teams that are comprised of men, women, or both in a co-ed division.

The turnout for the captains' meeting on September 6, in which students registered to play flag football, was high nearly filling the Dogwood Conference Room in the Student Activities Center to capacity.

The season began on September 11 and will have a five-week regular season as nearly 60 teams over the three divisions compete to advance to the playoffs.

After the regular season is over, one week of playoffs will occur in a single elimination tournament to determine the champion in each of the three divisions.

The popularity of flag football is not just limited to the GCSU intramural program. More than 50,000 students play flag football on college campuses across the country.

"It (flag football) is nationally known," said Joel Sanderson,

Coordinator of Intramural and Recreational Sports. "It's not just this campus, it's everywhere."

The biggest reason for the nationwide popularity of the sport is that football is one of the most popular sports in the country. Over 17 million people attended games of the National Football League and its championship game, the Super Bowl, last year. The Super Bowl is also traditionally the most watched television program every year.

"We see how popular the NFL and college football is in the United States today and (that) is why flag football is popular," said Sanderson.

While the popularity of football, in general, is a big reason for the demand in flag football, the lack of a varsity football team at GCSU is another reason for such a high turnout among students.

"(GCSU doesn't) have a football team," said Jason Hughes, junior special education major. "So a lot of people like to get out and have a little competition."

With no football in the Peach Belt Conference, GCSU students look toward flag football as a way to have some competition during football season.

"I play with a sorority;

so it's fun to play against the other sororities and have that competitive spirit," said Dana Tyler, sophomore exercise science major.

While Sanderson wants the participants of the flag football program to enjoy themselves, he also aims to promote good sportsmanship among the players.

Officials will grade the teams on a sportsmanship ratio of 0.0-4.0 during the game.

If players receive unsportsmanlike penalties during the game, their teams' ratio will go down. A team will not advance to the playoffs, that take place after the five week regular season, if they have a ratio of less than 3.0.

Sanderson's justification is that flag football is just a game and a way for the students to have fun.

"We (GCSU students) are playing for a T-shirt," said Sanderson, "We shouldn't play for blood."

Even though Sanderson is happy with the high turnout, he just wants students to enjoy the flag football program.

"I hope the students come out and have a good time and are able to enhance their college life outside the classroom," said Sanderson.



Photo by Brittany Thomas
Senior Adam Cronic stretches to catch a pass while practicing for intramural football at the Bobcat Village practice fields on Wednesday.

Smith:

Continued from pg.10...

"Coach Smith is very flexible," said junior forward Marquita Driskell. "He is always encouraging us to improve. He is more than willing to answer questions and help us improve."

Despite last year's rocky regular season, The lady

Bobcats plan to start this season exceptionally strong. The team's confidence is up.

"The best thing about [Smith] is his positive attitude," said senior guard Cassie Miliner. "Last season the team started the season on a low point, but this season we have a much more positive attitude."

The Lady Bobcats went 17-14 overall last year. Although a low seed in the

conference tournament, the team came on strong winning the 2006 Peach Belt Conference Tournament to receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament for the third time in the last five years.

"This experience has been exciting," said Smith. It feels good to be able to work at my alma mater and it impresses me that GCSU thinks highly enough of me to hire me as a coach."

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